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America], as yet almost untouched by real scientific research," and have tasted "the supreme joy of learning, or discovering." In explanation of the not wholly obvious meaning of the title, it may be said that the wilderness sought by these authors was one which could be truthfully called an untrodden region—jungles untouched by ax or fire (as they express it), where guns have not replaced bows and arrows; where the creatures of the wilderness are tame through unfamiliarity with human beings.

Their first expedition, in 1908, developed in quite novel fashion the latent interest of mangrove forests in the northern part of the Orinoco delta. Leaving Port of Spain, Trinidad, in a Venezuelan sloop, they cruised among the streams north of that great delta and explored the country around La Brea, the Venezuelan Pitch Lake. Their second "search" was conducted under decidedly favorable conditions, in the forest, river, and savanna regions of British Guiana. Both trips, they assure us, were successful; for the regions they explored were wilderness wonderlands,—“full of beauty, abounding in the romance which ever enhances wild creatures and wild men, and they were part of the great zoölogical ‘dark continent’ which we hope to devote our lives to studying.” Especially interesting descriptive passages are those which relate to protective coloration (pages 17, 18, 341, etc.), the dancing crabs (page 16), and the hunting-ants. Here is a paragraph taken from the account of the last-mentioned marauding army:

“We dropped five big black ants into the midst of the marauders, and witnessed a combat as thrilling as the contest between the Greeks and Persians. Four of the insects alighted on a small rounded stone over which three hunting-ants were scurrying. Without hesitation the black giants fell upon the brown warriors and tore them limb from limb, with the loss of only half a leg. This is not a very serious handicap when one has five and a half robust limbs left! The fifth big fellow dropped upon a mass of ants piled like football-players upon a struggling scorpion, whose sting was lashing the air in vain. The big ant started another ripple upon this pool of death, which soon smoothed away, leaving no recognizable trace of him. But the quartet of big-jawed fellows on their rock citadel fought successfully and well. No ant which crept to the top ever lived to return for help. The four flew at him like wolves and bit him to death. Soon a ring of hunting-ants formed around the stone, all motionless except for a frantic twiddling of antennæ. They were apparently excited by the smell of the blood of their dead fellows, and only rarely did one venture now and then to scale the summit. When we left, two hours afterward, the army had passed, and left the stone and its four doughty defenders, who showed no immediate intention of leaving their fortress.” MARRION WILCOX.

AFRICA

Geological and Archæological Notes on Orangia. By J. P. Johnson. iii and 102 pp., 40 illustrations, bibliography and index. Small 4to. Longmans, Green & Co., New York and London, 1910.

A condensed survey of the geology and archæology of the Orange River Colony, South Africa. Mr. Johnson's work both as a geologist and an archæologist in this part of Africa is well known. In this volume he gives a geographical description of the colony, four chapters on the geology, diamond mines and physiography, three on archæology, with drawings of petroglyphs and rock

paintings, one on farming prospects and a bibliography with sixty-five titles. He says that the conservation of moisture in the soil by means of deep plowing is proving successful in the cultivation of the dry lands.

The Handbook of Nyasaland. Comprising Historical, Statistical and General Information concerning the Nyasaland Protectorate. First year of publication. Compiled from official and other reliable sources. 292 pp. and illustrations. The Government Printer, Zomba, Nyasaland Protectorate, 1909. 3s. 6d.

A useful compilation including all phases of the development work in the Protectorate.

ASIA

L'Empire japonais et sa Vie économique. Par Joseph Dautremere, Consul de France. 308 pp., map and illustrations. Librairie Orientale et Américaine. E. Guilmoto, Editeur. Paris, 1910. F. 6.

The two parts of the title correspond to the two principal divisions of the book. It contains, first, a brief outline of the geography of Japan, and, secondly, a survey of its economic resources and activities. Compiled from various official and unofficial sources by the hand of one who knows the country through personal acquaintance, it is a handy guide to the land of the rising sun for the student as well as the prospective trader. One must beware, however, of too readily adopting the author's patronizing attitude towards modern progress in Japan, which betrays the tourist's way of looking at things rather than that of the scholar, the traveler, the philosopher, who tries to understand, and account for, what seems foreign to him. Nations ought to be judged by their aims and ideals, as embodied in their best men, quite as much as by the discrepancy, often ridiculous, between them and the crowd behind the leaders. A Japanese traveling in France, or in any other of the western countries, might make there, eventually, some observations quite as startling as the author records of Japan.

M. K. G.

NEAR EAST

Kairo—Bagdad—Konstantinopel. Wanderungen und Stimmungen von E. v. Hoffmeister, General-leutnant z. D. x and 262 pp., illustrations and map. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. M. 8.

The author, a retired German army-officer, has traveled extensively in many parts of the nearer East, some of which are rarely visited by travelers; and he has also supplemented his travels by collateral studies. With his heart full of his favorite subject we can understand that he could not help speaking about it in public, and many a reader of the magazine in which he published his earlier articles certainly has thanked him for a pleasant hour of reading. But it is a pity that successes of this kind too often lead a writer to overestimate his literary and scientific abilities. To write up "the Past and Present of the nature and the people of the Orient," as the author attempts in this book, and to "develop his report into a philosophy of travel," by interweaving it with his personal impressions and reflections, is more than the amateur can ever hope to accomplish. Hence, measured by the ambition of the author, the book is a perfect failure; for the first part of his book he lacks the qualities of the geographer and the historian, and for the latter those of the philosopher. He is a pleasant